EnviroNews

Regulatory Updates

Hazardous Waste Manifests Are Changing

Big changes are coming from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Hazardous Waste Uniform Manifest. On September 5, 2006 companies will be required to use the new Federal Uniform Manifest. Fourteen (14) companies have applied for approval to print the new uniform manifests. Although the EPA has not approved printers for the new form, the September date still applies.

Historic Milestone Marked in Clean Diesel

Starting on June 1, 2006 the EPA will require refiners and fuel importers to cut the sulfur content of highway diesel fuel 97 percent. Sulfur content will go from 500 parts per million (ppm) to 15. by implementing the new rule for Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) not only will environmental protection be enhanced but will prevent nearly 8,300 premature deaths and tens of thousands of cases of respiratory ailments such as bronchitis and asthma.

ULSD enable pollution control technology for cars, trucks and buses. The cleaner diesel will be available to consumers later this year. This change will reduce air pollution from 90 percent, approximately 13 million, trucks and buses. Once the diesel is fully in use an annual reduction of 2.6 million tons of nitrogen oxides and 110,000 tons of particulate matter will result.

From EPA News Release, June 2, 2006

Water Saving Tip

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water, weather-based irrigation controllers use local climate data to provide the right amount of water to keep landscaped beautiful. With proper programming, weather-based controllers can reduce water use by an average of 20% compared to conventional equipment, potentially saving over 11 billion gallons of water per year across the US. That is enough to fill 18,000 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Airlines Questioned on Deicing

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared three industry questionnaires for selected airports and airlines. The questionnaires are designed to gather information on airfield and aircraft deicing operations and chemical usage, including deicing stormwater collection and treatment systems, pollution prevention programs and management practices, information on pollutant monitoring systems, financial information and data necessary for economic impact analysis. Each airport and airline that is required to respond will

Summer Air Quality Forecasts On the Web

Free air quality forecasts and alerts are available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ground level ozone and fine particulate air pollution are significant public health threats in New England. In order to educate the public about the air quality conditions and next day forecasts the EPA has made them available on the web. Just go to epa.gov/ne/aqi. "Air Quality Alerts" are also available to notify people when high concentrations of ground-level ozone or fine particulates are predicted.

The warmer temperatures in the summer aide in the formation of ground-level ozone. These are considered unhealthy if concentrations exceed 0.08 parts per million over an 8-hour period. Poor air quality affects everyone, but some parts of the population are more sensitive, including children and adults who are active outdoors, or people with respiratory illnesses.

When air quality levels are predicted to be unhealthy in areas in New England the air quality alert will reflect this information. Special care needs to be taken on these days to reduce the air quality, these actions include:

- Use public transportation
- Reduce driving time and trips

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EnviroQuestion

How many trees would be saved if everyone in the United States recycled their Sunday newspaper from one Sunday?

Answer in the next issue.

Quarter I Question: How many tons of road salt are used each year in the United States?

Answer: 11 million tons

Air Quality Forecasts

Continued

- Turn the air conditioner to a higher setting
- Turn off electronics when not in use
- Avoid using gasoline-powered engines on unhealthy air days

Cars, trucks and buses are the primary source of air pollution that makes smog. Additionally fossil fuels burning at power plants and gas stations, print shops, lawn and garden equipment also contribute.

The Clean Air Act has led to significant improvements in air quality over the past 20 years, in 1983 there were 90 unhealthy days in New England and only 26 in 2005.

The EPA has taken a number of steps to reduce air pollution, including emission standards for cars and trucks and a cleaner burning diesel fuel requirement.

Excerpted from EPA Press Release 5/24/2006.

Gasoline

Where Does it Come From? Where Does it Go?

The United States consumes over 20 million barrels (840 million) gallons of petroleum products **each day**. Almost half of this is in the form of gasoline used in over 200 million motor vehicles that travel a combined 7 billion miles per day.

Gasoline is made from crude oil which comes from the remains of tiny aquatic plants and animals that lived hundreds of millions of years ago. The remains were covered up with sediment which became a mix of liquid hydrocarbons that we know of as crude oil.

A barrel of crude oil yields about 44 gallons of petroleum products. The products include: liquefied petroleum gas (LPG); heavy fuel oil; jet fuel; diesel fuel and heating oil; and gasoline. In 2004 refineries in the United States produced over 90 percent of the gasoline used in the United States.

The U.S. is the third largest producer of crude oil in the world. Less than 40 percent of the crude oil used by the U.S. refineries was produced in the United States. Net petroleum imports account for 58 percent of the U.S. petroleum consumption. Approximately 50 percent of petroleum products come from the Western Hemisphere.

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For Your Information

Benefits of Water Efficiency

Environmental benefits:

- Reduces water use today so that water resources are maintained for future generations.
- Maintains the health of aquatic environments.
- Protects drinking water resources by decreasing the need to withdraw ground or surface water supplies for municipal or industrial demands.
- Minimizes water pollution by decreasing the amount of runoff from landscaping and irrigation practices.
- Mitigates the effects of drought.

Economic benefits:

- Can reduce water and energy bills.
- Reduces the need for developing new water supply and building new wastewater treatment facilities, which is very costly.
- Saves energy used to pump, heat and treat water.
- Provides a competitive edge for businesses as water quality regulations become stricter and the cost of water increases.

Find out more on the EPA web page.

From USEPA :
www.epa.gov/watersense/basic/benefits.htm